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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 15 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 2.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 186.8 billion ton-miles, up 1.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 15 totaled 389,710, down 1.9 percent from last year, but 2.5 percent over the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.1 percent in the West, but down 6.5 percent in the East, and 6.2 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, metallic ores showed a gain of 3,527 cars (29.8 percent) and loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 1,368 cars (12.5 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 8 totaled 99,418 trailers and/or containers, 11.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first ten weeks of the year was 926,685 trailers and/or containers, up 12.8 percent fron 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/15/86:

	Loadings in Week ended March 15, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,900	D	2,936	11.8	I	210	1.0
Other farm products	2,939	D	894	23.3	D	342	10.4
Metallic ores	15,362	I	3,527	29.8	I	2,762	21.9
Coal	116,405	D	3,160	2.6	I	4,636	4.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,961	I	1,368	12.5	I	318	2.7
Nonmetallic minerals	9,890	D	2,075	17.3	I	908	10.1
Grain mill products	10,719	I	62	0.6	D	92	0.9
Food and kindred products	11,142	D	494	4.2	I	495	4.6
Primary forest products	10,525	D	2,388	18.5	D	768	6.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,010	I	885	12.4	I	147	1.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,349	D	1,294	8.8	D	188	1.4
Chemicals and allied products	26,935	D	1,257	4.5	I	1,721	6.8
Petroleum products	4,464	D	183	3.9	D	220	4.7
Stone, clay and glass products	9,868	D	1,381	12.3	D	234	2.3
Coke	4,845	D	463	8.7	I	8	0.2
Metals and products	8,426	D	1,226	12.7	D	99	1.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,250	I	406	1.8	I	100	0.4
Waste and scrap materials	8,727	D	1,804	17.1	I	83	1.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,548	D	1,368	19.8	D	106	1.9
All other carloads	65,318	I	7,268	12.5	I	224	0.3
LCL traffic	127	D	31	19.6	D	6	4.5
Total Cars Loaded	389,710	D	7,438	1.9	I	9,557	2.5
Corresponding week of 1985	397,148						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,047,879	3,962,465	I 2.2

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 Weeks ended March 8	169.0	165.4	I 2.2
Week ended March 15	17.8	18.3	D 2.8
11 weeks cumulative	186.8	183.7	I 1.7

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